

**MINUTES**  
Town Council Meeting  
November 14, 2005  
North Town Hall

Attending: Mayor Jeffcoat, Council members Cook, Drew, Gleaton and Lane; incoming Council member Binyard, Administrator Ott, Chief Fallaw and Beth Kincaid, Town Clerk.

Mayor Jeffcoat called the general meeting of the North Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. and declared a quorum. Visitors and guests were welcomed.

Jeffcoat called for approval of the Minutes from the October 10, 2005 meeting. The Minutes were approved as presented.

Public Presentation:

Jeffcoat recognized outgoing Councilwoman Deborah Cook. He presented her with a plaque and expressed his appreciation, and that of the Town, for her years of service on Town Council. Ms. Cook thanked the Mayor and Council and stated she had enjoyed her time on Council and the opportunity to get to know her community. She said she was stepping down to pursue her life long dream of becoming a nurse. She welcomed Ms. Rose Binyard and said she was pleased to turn her seat over to her.

Mr. Govan Golson presented Ms. Cook with a beautiful vase arrangement of Fall flowers. He said he has had the privilege of knowing Deborah for a long time and stated she has done so much for the Town with her positive and uplifting attitude. He thanked her for her hard work on behalf of the whole community and the Town that he loves.

Ms. Cook stepped down from her seat and Ms. Binyard assumed her place on Council. Town Clerk, Beth Kincaid, administered the oath of office to the Mayor and Council members. Ms. Binyard expressed appreciation to all of her supporters and recognized members of her church family in the audience. Mr. Jeffcoat introduced the next speaker, Mr. Harold Strock, of the Rural Development Office.

Mr. Strock introduced the Rural Development Office (RDO) by way of reminder that it is the old Farmers' Home Administration. He said the RDO not only serves farmers, but citizens in all rural communities. He expounded upon the available services and monies available, primarily focusing on very low interest mortgages, the ability to assist communities in constructing health facilities or nursing homes, resolution of public safety hazards, or starting a new public service. There is also a 504 program for individuals 62 and older, or for disabled persons needing extensive home repairs. If anyone is interested or has additional questions, they may call the Rural Development Office.

Dr. Paul Owen announced he would conduct a Medicare Part D seminar at St. Mark's on Tuesday, November 15, 2005.

Water/Sewer Report:

Mr. Ott reported 11 cut-offs all turned back on, 4 new accounts, 22 meter checks, 6 water leaks and one sewer line problem. Four sewer line connections were moved for the 321 project. Other jobs performed were a big clean up at the water treatment plant and the water tank, filling five pot holes, and scraping weeds. Robert Hutto has completed the water line extension and has started on the sewer line extension. There are some TDS phone lines that will need to be moved for the Toshiba Court work then the project will be complete. No DHEC violations for the month.

Police Report:

Chief Fallaw commended his officers for their hard work, reporting that 92% of the calls were generated by the department. Officers worked a total of 545.5 man hours, up 100 hours from last month without the assistance of a reserve officer. Thirty-two hours were spent in court, 9.5 hours in training. Fallaw reviewed the Group A, B and C offenses. Two Group C offenses, two involved juveniles egging the mayor's house and one of the police cars. They were caught and made to clean the mayor's house and the police car. Fallaw noted that after the first 2 hours of the scheduled trick-or-treating time, there was a notable drop in adult supervision and an increased number of juveniles 12 and over getting into mischief. Fallaw asked Council to consider changing Halloween hours from 3 hours to 2 hours next year. Fallaw reviewed traffic violations. The department's new vehicle, the 2006 Tahoe has

arrived and all police equipment has been installed. The 1994 Crown Victoria has been retired. Officer Faulk will be returning as a reserve officer, and the department is excited to have him back.

A Check Point was conducted on October 1, 2005, using the Bat mobile. This joint effort with the Norway and Springfield police departments and the Orangeburg County Sheriff's department resulted in over 400 vehicle checks resulting in 2 DUS, 4 arrests, 6 towed vehicles, and the apprehension of 2 fugitives and seizure of 3 unlawful weapons. Ms. Lane said she was pleased to read that the joint effort resulted in so many drug charges, and thanked the department for their hard work.

Fallaw reported he was interviewed by the Times and Democrat regarding the use of bullet-proof vests. Also in the interview he reported a recent fire had been determined to be arson and a warrant had been issued for Michael Morphy, a 19 year-old Caucasian male. Morphy is being charged with assault and battery and second degree arson.

#### Old Business:

Mr. Jeffcoat reported the October financial report shows a beginning balance of \$86,453.79. Income totaled \$40,104.37, and expenses totaled \$58,317.10. The ending balance was \$59,873.94.

The 321 road widening project is continuing. It is expected work in the downtown business area will not begin until after the Christmas parade. This year's parade will be held on November 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. The parade route will be diverted due to the construction. Following the parade, the tree lighting ceremony and a fireworks display will be held in the Town Square.

Second reading was given to a change in the meeting time for Council. There was discussion and a motion was made by Lane and seconded by Gleaton the change the time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., effective the next Council meeting on December 12, 2005.

#### New Business:

- Councilman Drew was elected Mayor Pro Tem
- SC Rural Water Association is sponsoring a poster contest and we will forward information about this to area schools and youth groups. North is eligible to send one representative to their annual meeting in December. We need a representative to attend, as important decisions are made at this meeting
- The Town is asking for input from citizens regarding placement of the Town clock. Any suggestions or comments may be submitted to Mayor Jeffcoat at Town Hall. Mr. Strock reminded Council that the RDO has funding available for such projects. Mr. Ott will check into this.
- Ott reported a self-defense class will be offered for the ladies of North. The class will be taught by Phil Orr and he has agreed to teach the class at no charge. The class will be taught at Town Hall. Mr. Gleaton made the motion to approve the self-defense class and its being taught at Town Hall. Ms. Lane seconded and was unanimously approved by Council. Times and dates will be announced after the Christmas holidays.
- Christmas decorations will be placed in the Town Square and Main Street. The parade Grand Marshall will be the Colonel for the 437<sup>th</sup> Wing out of Charleston
- Holiday Hours - Town Hall will be closed on Thanksgiving and the Friday after and on the Friday before and Monday after Christmas.
- The character trait for October for the month is "Gratitude".

Jeffcoat called for any public comments.

A citizen expressed appreciation to Council and staff for the additions in front of Town Hall. Another citizen expressed concern that the flag is not illuminated. Mayor Jeffcoat said the lights were in working condition but that some additional electrical work would have to be done.

Councilwoman Binyard recognized Pastor Duggan, the pastor of her church. Reverend Wright thanked everyone for their support in the North Day of Prayer. There was a wonderful turnout and \$376 was presented to the Cooperative Ministry.

On a motion made, seconded and approved, Council moved into Executive session.

Council returned to Regular Session and Mayor Jeffcoat called the meeting to order. Mr. Gleaton made a motion to retain Stanley Myers as the Town's attorney, Ms. Binyard seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Pastor Duggan closed the meeting in prayer. Council adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Kincaid

**APPROVED**

Mayor Earl Jeffcoat: \_\_\_\_\_

**Council Members:**

Paul Drew: \_\_\_\_\_

Harriet Lane: \_\_\_\_\_

Rose Binyard: \_\_\_\_\_

Aubrey Gleaton: \_\_\_\_\_